



PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

DEMOCRATIC STAFF

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INITIAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2012 BUDGET REQUEST FOR DHS

IN GENERAL

Today, President Barack Obama transmitted his \$3.73 trillion budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. While many Federal agencies are slated for substantial cuts, the President proposes \$43.2 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), an increase of 1.49% over the amount anticipated under the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.

The increases are primarily attributable to increases in funds for operational control agencies at DHS, such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard. The main reductions in the budget request could be attributed to decreases in funding for DHS Management, FEMA grants, and the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

The total budget authority that the President proposes for DHS is \$57.0 billion, which amounts to approximately \$1.3 billion over the amount anticipated for the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

The FY 2012 request for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is \$5.1 billion, which is 2.36% below what is assumed under a FY 2011 Continuing Resolution.

For security for passenger planes, the President requests a \$187 million increase for technology and personnel upgrades; enhancements include an additional \$105.2 million for the deployment of 275 new whole body imaging devices at airport checkpoints and adding 535 new Transportation Security officers to the system.

By the end of 2012, the President's budget projects that 1,275 whole body imagers will be deployed.

BORDER SECURITY

Under the President's budget request, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would receive about \$10.37 billion, an increase of 2.42% over what is assumed under the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution for security enhancements, including the hiring of an additional 300 CBP officers and canine assets and increased pre-screening at foreign airports.

The President's budget calls for \$528 million, a 34% decrease in funding for the CBP fencing, infrastructure, and technology account. Within that account, the President requests \$242 million for the new Southwest Border Technology program, which will replace the cancelled *SBI^{net}* program.

The budget would decrease funding for International Cargo screening by \$93 million, a 58% percent decrease from the amount assumed for Fiscal Year 2011 but includes \$7.5 million for CBP to conduct a new cargo screening pilot to assess alternatives to screening of 100% maritime cargo screening as required under the law.

FEMA

The President's FY 2012 budget requests about \$1.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief fund, which some have said is underfunded given that in FY 2011 alone \$3 billion was needed.

With respect to grant programs, the President's budget requests about \$3.8 billion for state and local grants, compared to about \$4.6 billion that is being spent on those programs during the current fiscal year.

For Assistance to Firefighters Grants, the President is seeking \$670 million. Of that, \$420 million is for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants to rehire laid off firefighters and retain veteran first responders – totaling 2,300 firefighter positions – and \$250 million for equipment, training, vehicles, and related materials.

MARITIME SECURITY

The President's budget request proposes \$8.7 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, a 1.6% increase (or \$135 million above) what is assumed for FY 2011 funding.

The budget request seeks funding for six new Fast Response Cutters at a cost of \$358 million and two more Maritime Patrol Aircraft at a cost of \$130 million.

Within the budget, the President is seeking \$22.2 million for advance implementation of its Marine Safety Performance Plan, which is in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

The President's budget is seeking \$233.6 million to expedite the deployment of EINSTEIN 3 to prevent and detect intrusions on computer systems and to upgrade the National Cyber Security Protection System, building an intrusion detection capability and analysis capabilities to protect federal networks. Unfortunately, even as new investments are made to United States Computer

Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) operations, funding for outreach to critical infrastructure owners to promote cybersecurity is cut by 24%.

Though the President does not seek any appropriations for the operations of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) – an entirely fee-funded agency—the budget does request a \$0.08 increase in the Basic Security Fee it charges to occupants of the Federal buildings that it protects. This increase is anticipated to allow for a \$146 million increase to FPS’ operational budget.

The President’s budget calls for a 19% reduction to funding for the US-VISIT program – which has been unable to effectively launch a system to capture exit information on foreign visitors.

DHS MANAGEMENT

The President’s FY 2012 budget request seeks \$160 million for the St. Elizabeths DHS Headquarters project, an important undertaking for DHS integration and operations though, at the same time, the budget also proposes delaying construction of FEMA’s headquarters space, and building maintenance and enhancements to prioritize frontline security operations.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Recognizing that technological solutions are critical to addressing many of today’s homeland security challenges, the President’s budget makes smart new investments in the Science and Technology Directorate— by seeking a 17% (or \$170 million) increase in funding.

Unfortunately, even as the President’s budget request makes new investments in research and development, the S&T budget includes a 26% (or \$12.8 million) reduction in funding is proposed for University Programs and the elimination of the National Transportation Security Center of Excellence—a dedicated transportation security research consortium authorized by the “Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act” (P.L. 110-53).

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE

Consistent with H.R. 4842, the “Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act,” as approved by the House in July 2010, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office budget request includes \$27 million to competitively select a high-risk city (in the Urban Area Security Initiative), in addition to New York City, to participate in the Securing the Cities (STC) program, the domestic portion of the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture.

OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS

The President’s budget seeks to increase funding for the Office of Health Affairs by roughly \$26 million for activities including the BioWatch Program which deploys sensors for early detection of biological attack.